

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A tunable quantum well infrared photodetector focal plane array (QWIP FPA) imaging device, comprising:

one or more detector layers including asymmetric quantum wells, each detector layer resides between contact layers and is coupled by barrier layers, thereby defining a stack of layers having a front side and a back side, wherein each detector layer has a spectrum of light absorption that changes in response to an applied bias, each of said asymmetric quantum wells being a unit cell comprising two quantum wells where a first undoped quantum well is configured to absorb a first spectrum, and a second doped quantum well is configured to absorb a second spectrum, wherein said second quantum well includes a well spike and a means for adjusting a ground state of said second quantum well using said well spike without affecting an excited state of said second quantum well, and wherein said means for adjusting is a bias signal;

a light-coupling grating formed on the backside of the stack, the grating having a pattern that reflects a substantial portion of incoming light so as to disperse that light through the one or more of the detector layers, thereby facilitating absorption; and

a reflective coating on sides of the detector layers so as to provide, in conjunction with the light-coupling grating, a photon-in-a-box configuration for containing light.

Claim 2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein each detector layer is not more than about one micron in thickness.

Claim 3. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a read-out integrated circuit (ROIC) that includes biasing circuitry adapted to deliver bias signals to each detector layer thereby enabling tunability of the corresponding spectrum of light absorption.

Claim 4. (Original) The device of claim 3 wherein each contact layer of the device is electrically coupled to a backside contact, thereby facilitating connection to the ROIC.

Claim 5. (Original) The device of claim 3 wherein the ROIC further includes an image processor adapted to receive pixel data from each detector layer and to generate corresponding images associated with the pixel data.

Claim 6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the stack of layers is one multicolor pixel of the device, and is repeated a number of times thereby defining an array of the multicolor pixels.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein applying a first bias causes the first spectrum to be dominant and applying a second bias causes the second spectrum to be dominant.

Claim 10. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein applying a first bias causes a first spectrum of absorption to be dominant and applying a second bias causes a second spectrum of absorption to be dominant.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A tunable quantum well infrared photodetector focal plane array (QWIP FPA) imaging device, comprising:

one or more detector layers each including a plurality of asymmetric unit cells, each detector layer between contact layers, thereby defining a stack of layers having a front side and a back side;

wherein each unit cell includes two quantum wells coupled by a barrier, and one of the quantum wells is undoped and configured to absorb a first spectrum in response to a first bias being applied, and the other quantum well is doped includes a well spike and is configured to absorb a second spectrum in response to

a second bias being applied, said well spike having a means for adjusting ~~the~~ a ground state of said quantum well configured to absorb the second spectrum without affecting an excited state of said quantum well and wherein said means for adjusting is biasing.

Claim 12. (Original) The device of claim 11 further comprising a read-out integrated circuit (ROIC) that includes biasing circuitry adapted to deliver the first and second bias signals to each detector layer thereby enabling spectral tunability of the device.

Claim 13. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein each contact layer of the device is electrically coupled to a backside contact, thereby facilitating connection to the ROIC.

Claim 14. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the ROIC further includes an image processor adapted to receive pixel data from each detector layer and to generate corresponding images associated with the pixel data.

Claim 15. (Original) The device of claim 11 wherein the stack of layers is one multicolor pixel of the device, and is repeated a number of times thereby defining an array of the multicolor pixels.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A tunable quantum well infrared photodetector focal plane array (QWIP FPA) imaging device, comprising:

one or more detector layers including asymmetric quantum wells, each detector layer between contact layers, thereby defining a stack of layers having a front side and a back side, wherein each detector layer has a spectrum of light absorption that changes in response to an applied bias;

a read-out integrated circuit (ROIC) that includes biasing circuitry adapted to deliver bias signals to each detector layer thereby enabling spectral tunability;

an image processor adapted to receive pixel data from each detector layer and to generate corresponding images associated with the pixel data; and

wherein each of said asymmetric quantum wells is a unit cell comprising two quantum wells coupled by a barrier, where one of the quantum wells is undoped and configured to absorb a first spectrum, and the other quantum well is doped, includes a well spike and is configured to absorb a second spectrum, said well spike having a means for adjusting the ground state of said quantum well configured to absorb the second spectrum, without affecting an excited state of said quantum well and wherein said means for adjusting is biasing.

Claim 17. (Original) The device of claim 16 wherein the stack of layers is one multicolor pixel of the device, and is repeated a number of times thereby defining an array of the multicolor pixels, from each of which the image processor receives pixel data.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16 wherein applying a first bias causes the first spectrum to be dominant and applying a second bias causes the second spectrum to be dominant.

Claim 20. (Original) The device of claim 16 wherein applying a first bias causes a first spectrum of absorption to be dominant and applying a second bias causes the second spectrum of absorption to be dominant.